

cured in two cases at the first venesection, in one at the second, and in another at the third, M. Tourdes states that the principal alteration detected was an alteration of the globules and of the fibrine, but especially of the former. Dr. Ames found the blood drawn from the arm and by cups to form large loose coagula, in which all the red globules were rarely included. The serum separated slowly, and in small quantity. The colour was generally light, in a few cases approaching to that of arterial blood. Of thirty cases it was buffed only in four. It presented an excess of fibrine."

The work of Dr. Condie is unquestionably a very able one. It is practical in its character, as its title imports; but the practical precepts recommended in it are based, as all practice should be, upon a familiar knowledge of disease. The opportunities of Dr. Condie for the practical study of the diseases of children have been great, and his work is a proof that they have not been thrown away. He has read much, but observed more; and we think that we may safely say that the American student cannot find, in his own language, a better book upon the subject of which it treats.

E. H.

ART. XIV.—*Surgical Anatomy*. By JOSEPH MACLISE, Surgeon. With coloured plates. Part I. Philadelphia. Lea & Blanchard, 1850: quarto, pp. 40, with sixteen plates.

EVERY surgeon must have experienced, at times, the want of a correct visible representation of the human frame, or of some particular part, wherewith to give distinctness to his recollections concerning them. The precise course of an artery; the exact relative situation of a nerve or plexus of veins; the disposition of a fascia—these are questions of immense practical moment, when human life may be lost or endangered, or the future usefulness of a limb sacrificed, by an ignorant surgeon, to whom the performance of an operation has been entrusted. All surgeons are not, unfortunately, good anatomists, and even those who are, often feel the necessity of referring to a surer guide than memory, when a delicate operation is pending. The oft-quoted lines of Horace—

"Segnius irritant animos demissa per aures,
Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta fidelibus"—

apply with remarkable force and truth to this subject. There are few who have the realities of Regional Anatomy so accurately and vividly impressed upon their minds as to be able, by a subjective act of the will, to transfer the picture to the eye. Verbal descriptions, knowledge acquired from written histories, are less trustworthy than actual vision. The most experienced navigator may lose his ship, if he trusts to his recollection alone, to enable him to distinguish the true from the fancied light, instead of studying his position upon official charts. The surgeon's chart is the dead body; but this he cannot always consult, even in a city abounding in almshouses and dissecting-rooms; much less can he, when remote from these facilities. Under such circumstances, the only reliable substitute is a carefully prepared drawing of the part which he wishes to study.

There are many publications extant, which embody excellent illustrations of surgical anatomy, as those of Bourguery, Blandin, and Tuson; but most of these are, if possible, too elaborate, and all are so expensive as to be beyond the acquisition of most surgeons. The work of Mr. Maclise obviates, we think, both of these objections, combining great truth and beauty of illustration with cheapness. When completed, the book will contain about one hundred and fifty double-columned pages, of imperial quarto dimensions, and from fifty to sixty plates, superior in execution to any that have ever been issued in this country, certainly. The American reprint of the first part of the work is a strikingly faithful copy of the original. The remaining *three* parts will be issued as speedily as practicable. The price of the completed volume is fixed at only eight dollars.

The first and second plates, and the commentary which accompanies them, are

devoted to a consideration of "The form of the thoracic cavity, and the position of the lungs, heart, and larger blood-vessels."

The author dwells upon the fact, that the thorax is improperly termed "*a cavity*;" that its contents completely fill it at all times, but that, in consequence of the alternate systole and diastole of its parietes, and of the varying attitude of the diaphragm, as influenced by the abdominal muscles and organs, the situation of the thoracic viscera, and the diameters of the chest, are subject to variations. These considerations are made to have a practical bearing by illustrations drawn from the effect of wounds inflicted upon different points of the walls of the chest. Thus, the apex of the lung is shown to project into the root of the neck, above the level of the sternal end of the clavicle, particularly when the lung is inflated, or when it is forced to seek accommodation for itself above, in consequence of "the stays or girdle which brace the loins of most women, preventing the expansion of the thoracic apparatus, naturally attained by the descent of the diaphragm." He mentions, also, an interesting fact in philosophical anatomy, "that, at those very localities, viz., the neck and the loins, where the lungs by their own natural effort are prone to extend themselves in forced inspirations," happen the "anomalous creations of cervical and lumbar ribs," to protect these important organs at these points of acquired exposure.

We must "*enter a caveat*" against the author's opinion that "it is very probable that the continuous murmur which we hear through the stethoscope, in chlorotic females, is caused by the pulsation of the subclavian artery against the top of the lung," p. 10. Hope has clearly shown that this murmur is generated in the *veins* about the root of the neck, and not in the arteries. (*Diseases of Heart*, &c., Am. ed., p. 136, &c.) But, undoubtedly, the situation of the subclavian artery, at this point, enables the auscultator to arrive more surely at the knowledge of the *particular valve* of the left ventricle which is the seat of a morbid sound, since the walls of the artery furnish a direct and a good medium for the transmission of sound from the heart.

These two plates likewise exhibit very good views of the neck; the first, of its lateral region; the second, of its anterior face; but these are rather incidental.

The next succeeding *eight* plates, and the associated text, illustrate dissections, both superficial and deep, of the neck and face. The usual division of the cervical region into triangular spaces is adopted by the author, and the contents of each are well exhibited. The situation of each important vessel and nerve, at different points of its course, is carefully pointed out, and the sources of accident or difficulty which may occur in operating upon, or near them, are noted in connection with each. Mr. MacLise insists upon the expediency of indicating the situation and direction of the blood-vessels, by referring to *points on the skeleton*, whenever this can be done, rather than to muscular lines, because the latter are liable to constant change with every motion of the part to which they belong, and are diverted by the pressure of tumours, &c. Moreover, the muscles vary very much in dimensions. On the contrary, the lines of the bones, and the position of the bony prominences, are subject to less variation, and hence are surer guides. The relational anatomy of the carotid and subclavian arteries receives, as the importance of the subject demands, a very satisfactory share of the author's attention.

One chapter and two plates are devoted to the elucidation of "the sterno-clavicular or tracheal region, and the relative position of its main blood-vessels, nerves," &c. In these, the anatomical peculiarities of the innominate, and of the subclavian and carotid arteries at their origin, are described. The existence of the *arteria innominata* is a very remarkable peculiarity, a departure from the ordinary law that the median line of the body is the line of fusion of its two originally distinct halves, and that "all structures or organs which range this common centre-line are either symmetrically azygos, or symmetrically duplex," p. 25. This law is operative as regards the skeleton; we find that the occipital, parietal, frontal, nasal, maxillary, sphenoid, and palatal bones, the vomer, the os hyoides, the bones composing the vertebral column and the walls of the chest, and those forming the pelvis, offer no exception to this law of

symmetry. The same general plan is observed in the disposition of the organs of the body; the brain; the organs concerned in mastication; the pharynx and œsophagus; the larynx and trachea; the lungs, the thyroid body, the heart in one sense; the liver in foetal life; the kidneys, the pelvic organs and their external appendages; all these display the same harmonious idea. But, in the case of the vascular system, this symmetry is departed from, by the creation of the innominate artery. Yet even here, nature sometimes reverts to her favourite law by dispensing with the innominate entirely, and allowing the subclavian and carotid arteries of the right side to spring directly from the arch of the aorta, as do their congeners of the left side; or by evolving the latter from one trunk, thereby forming a left innominate. On the other hand, as if to show that formative energy is not to be trammelled by the laws of the schools, still wider departures are made in the origin of these important vessels, all springing at separate points from the arch, altogether to the right side of the median line; or, again, the left carotid sometimes rises from the innominate, &c. &c. (Quain and Sharpey). These and similar anomalies concerning these vessels are mentioned by Mr. Maclise, and suitable cautions are impressed upon the reader who may propose to operate upon them. The dangers belonging to tracheotomy and laryngotomy, and the means of overcoming them, are also well described.

Plates 11 and 12, exhibiting "the surgical dissection of the axillary and brachial regions, displaying the relative order of their contained parts," are exceedingly beautiful specimens of art, as well as faithful copies of nature; so faithful that they will terrify, we should fancy, any one from invading such a solemn labyrinth of arteries, veins, nerves, and lymphatics, without due preparation, without careful examination of his good blade, and much spiritual fortification by texts and studious vigils.

The author's comments do not underrate the difficulties in the way of operations implicating the axillary space, and convey judicious suggestions and information concerning its anatomical peculiarities.

In the following chapter, and the accompanying figures, 13 and 14, the same subject is continued, with particular reference to the differences between the *male* and *female* axilla. Of course, the main features of this region are the same in both sexes, as regards the disposition of important organs. But the existence of the mammary gland in the female, resting as it does upon the pectoralis major muscle, and overhanging the axillary margin of the latter, must of necessity create a difference in the configuration and in the dimensions of the axilla of the female, as compared with that of the male. The shape of this cavity, if it may be so called, is conical, the base presenting externally; but its depth and its lateral measurements are subject to great fluctuations, according to the positions and motions of the arm. These same variations will affect the relative situations of the blood-vessels and nerves of the axilla, so much so as materially to influence the degree of accessibility of these organs. These facts are illustrated by the figures, and commented on in the text.

The lymphatic bodies of the axilla are well shown, and the connection of these with the important operation for the removal of the mammae is prominently noticed. The implication of the lymphatic glands at the root of the neck is not so much adverted to by writers generally, when treating of diseases of the female breast, as the importance of the fact demands. Mr. Maclise alludes to it. If the disease of the gland be on the sternal side of the nipple, the lymphatic bodies at the root of the neck, laterally, will be found enlarged, as often perhaps as those in the axilla; and the signification of this condition, touching the question of amputation, will be the same in both cases.

The author indicates clearly the course of the vessels and nerves, from the axilla downwards, along the arm, their position with reference to the muscles and bony prominences, and the most common accidents and structural diseases which are liable to implicate this surgical region. Some judicious observations are also made concerning the application and adaptation of surgical apparatus to this and other parts of the body.

The concluding chapter of this first part of the work, and the last two plates, are devoted to the anatomy of "the bend of the elbow and the four-arm, show-

ing the relative position of the arteries, veins, nerves," &c. We have expressed great satisfaction at the execution of the preceding drawings, and we extend the same meed of commendation to these; they are very beautiful and life-like. In his comments upon the surgical region which these figures portray, Mr. MacLise displays the same anatomical knowledge, and the same good judgment in the application of it, that he has elsewhere evinced. The anatomy of this region is not so intricate as that of the neck or of the axilla; but it does not, therefore, form a less important subject for study, because accidents calling for surgical aid are of very frequent occurrence here, more so than in the other parts named. The veins concerned in phlebotomy, and the accidents attending this operation, as well as the mode of performing the operation itself, are duly described. The subjacent structures are clearly unfolded in the 16th plate, and their relations to each other are explained. The author dwells at length on the points at which the different arteries of the superior extremity may be most conveniently tied, and the best methods of reaching them. Thus endeth the first part.

In conclusion, we feel bound to express our thanks to Mr. MacLise for his very excellent and instructive book; and to the American publishers, for the opportunity of studying and of possessing it.

F. W. S.

ART. XV.—*On the Diseases of Infants and Children.* By FLEETWOOD CHURCHILL, M. D., M. R. I. A., Hon. Member of the College of Physicians of Ireland, Hon. Member of the Philadelphia Medical Society, &c. &c. Author of the "Theory and Practice of Midwifery," "On the Diseases of Females," &c. &c. Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard, 1850: pp. 636, 8vo.

WE hail with much pleasure this volume, as completing the valuable series of works—comprising *Midwifery*, and the *Diseases of Women and of Children*—by the same author. For the completion of the series, it appears that we are indebted to the American publishers.

The author, in his preface, states: "It is with much gratification that I acknowledge the volume to owe its existence to the solicitations of my excellent American publishers. After making a considerable collection of works on diseases of children, I had laid them aside, hopeless of accomplishing the task of writing the work I had contemplated, but it was impossible to decline an invitation so flattering from a country which had shown so much indulgence to my former works. I have, therefore, in such leisure as I have been able to command during the last three years, written this volume, not as an exponent of my own experience alone, but as embracing the information recorded by all the authors within my reach, of which I have freely availed myself; and if it prove useful and acceptable to my American brethren, I shall be richly repaid."

The present volume will sustain the reputation acquired by the author from his previous works. The reader will find in it full and judicious directions for the management of infants at birth, and a compendious, but clear, account of the diseases to which children are liable, and the most successful mode of treating them.

The diseases of children have, within a recent period, attracted much careful and studious attention, and this they fully merit. Independently of their obscurity, which, of itself, excites in the mind a disposition to master and remove them if possible, the helpless condition of the sufferer has strong claims upon the feelings of the conscientious and considerate practitioner.

Dr. Churchill's book is divided into two parts: the first of which is devoted to Preliminary Observations, the Management of the Infant at Birth, the Food of Infancy and Childhood, Cleanliness, Air, and Exercise.

The second part is divided into seven sections, embracing the various diseases to which children are subject. These are arranged under the following heads: Diseases of the Cerebro-Spinal System, Diseases of the Respiratory System, Diseases of the Skin, Eruptive Fevers, Infantile Remittent Fever, Worm Fever, and Gastric Fever.